

DESCRIPTION OF A NEW SPECIES OF VOLUTA.

Voluta Norrissii.—Greyish white, very minutely black, dotted with broad black wavy irregular longitudinal streaks, with three bands with paler dots and streaks; nucleus blunt, upper part slightly crenated; last whorl subangular; mouth bright orange, with a white edge to the outer lip. Inhab. —? Cabinet, Mr. Norris.

Very like *Voluta nervosa*, but the shell is minutely black dotted, the longitudinal streaks are broader, and the three dark bands are rather more towards the front of the shell; the hinder one occupies the whole of the spine and hinder slope of the last whorl.—J. E. GRAY.

GIGANTIC ECHINUS SPINE.

There has lately been discovered in Sicily the fragment of a gigantic spine of an *Echinus*, nearly an inch and half in circumference and more than eight inches long.—J. E. GRAY.

CURTIS'S BRITISH ENTOMOLOGY.

The 15th volume of this splendid work commenced with a beautiful plate of *Stauropis Fagi* with its grotesque caterpillar. *Nitidula Colon*, *Ledra aurita*, and *Myopa fulvipes* follow; a figure of *Orchestes Waltoni*, a new species of the saltatorial Curculios, has enabled the author to record some facts respecting the destructive economy of these minute beetles. *Acrolepia Betulella*, an undescribed *Tinea*, *Crabro subpunctatus*, and *Hydræssa pygmæa*, a pretty little insect allied to *Velia*, complete the two first numbers.

Those for March and April contain *Dermestes lardarius*, *Lithomia Solidaginis*, a fine Noctua new to Britain, with its caterpillar; *Prostemma guttula* from a unique British specimen taken near Sandwich; the rare *Tetyra fuliginosa*, *Trachys minuta*, *Porrectaria albicosta*, *Cynips nervosa*, belonging to the tribe of Gall-nut flies, and *Trigonometopus frontalis*, a remarkable fly established as a genus by Macquart.

Nos. 173 and 174 exhibit *Otiorhynchus maurus*, with some remarks on the great mischief committed by various species of the genus on fruit trees, &c. *Siona dealbata*, an elegant moth, having very much the appearance of a white butterfly. *Tenthredo cingulata*; this is a figure of an hemaphrodite specimen, in which the different colours of the two sexes are strikingly contrasted in the body; *Capsus hirtus*, *Elater aterrimus*, *Alucita hexadactyla*, a strong variety of *Panorpa germanica*, and *Phasia speciosa*, for the first time figured and recorded as an indigenous species.

Of the 24 plants, which are as highly finished and as faithfully depicted as the insects, we were most struck with the figure of the wood strawberry (pl. 690.) and amongst the rare or local species

we observed *Orchis tephrosanthos*, *Carum verticillatum*, *Villarsia Nymphoides*, *Saxifraga oppositifolia*, *Lepidium latifolium*, *Tamarix gallica*, *Petroselinum segetum*, *Inula Helenium*, and *Allium arenarium*.

OBITUARY.

Died, at his house in Ridley Place, Newcastle, on the 5th of May, aged 69, Nathaniel John Winch, Esq., greatly respected. Mr. Winch was well known in the scientific world as an excellent British botanist. He was author of "An Essay on the Geographical Distribution of Plants through the Counties of Northumberland, Cumberland, and Durham," which has passed through two editions; also "Observations on the Geology of Northumberland and Durham, 4to., 1814," and of a very elaborate "Flora of Northumberland and Durham," printed in the Transactions of the Natural History Society of Northumberland, Durham, and Newcastle upon Tyne. He has bequeathed the whole of his very extensive Herbarium and his Library of Natural History to the Linnæan Society, of which he was a member, and has left a legacy of £200 to the Newcastle Infirmary, to which he acted as Secretary for a period of 21 years. He for many years maintained an active correspondence with several of the most scientific men in all parts of the world; and their letters, carefully arranged, present an interesting feature in his library.

METEOROLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS FOR JUNE 1838.

Chiswick.—May 1. Fine: rain: fine at night. 2, 3. Very fine. 4. Dry haze. 5. Thunder: fine. 6. Slight haze: very fine. 7, 8. Very fine. 9. Hot and very dry. 10. Cold and dry. 11, 12. Fine. 13. Hazy: fine. 14. Cloudy and cold. 15—18. Fine. 19. Overcast. 20. Slight rain. 21. Cloudy. 22, 23. Cloudy: rain. 24. Overcast. 25—27. Fine. 28. Rain. 29, 30. Fine. 31. Very fine: heavy thunder-showers at night.

Boston.—May 1. Cloudy: heavy rain P.M. 2. Cloudy. 3. Cloudy: thunder, lightning, and rain early A.M. 4, 5. Fine. 6. Cloudy. 7—12. Fine. 13. Cloudy: rain early A.M.: rain P.M. 14. Cloudy: rain early A.M. 15—17. Fine. 18—19. Cloudy. 20. Cloudy: rain P.M. 21. Cloudy. 22. Cloudy: rain A.M. 23. Rain. 24, 25. Cloudy. 26, 27. Fine. 28. Fine: rain P.M. 29. Cloudy. 30. Cloudy: rain P.M. 31. Cloudy.

Applegarth Manse, Dumfries-shire.—May 1. Sun shone: hoar frost A.M.: cold P.M. 2. Sun shone: genial rain afternoon. 3. Sun shone, showery A.M. 4. Sun shone: moist and mild: genial. 5. Sun shone: a beautiful day. 6. Sun shone: very dry and parching. 7. Sun shone: warm and genial. 8. Sun shone: very warm and clear. 9. Sun shone: the same. 10. austerly wind: cool. 11. Sun shone: milder than preceding day. 12. Sun shone: a few drops of rain P.M. 13. Sun shone: withering day. 14. Sun shone: cold, with hail showers. 15. Sun shone: clear and cold. 16. Sun shone: heavy hail showers. 17. Sun shone: cold and showery. 18. Sun shone: cold and withering. 19. Cold and very wet. 20. Heavy rain all day. 21. Sun shone: showery and mild. 22. Mild and very wet. 23. Sun shone: moist: rather cold. 24. Sun shone: clear growing day. 25. Sun shone: mild and clear. 26. Sun shone: clear and warm. 27. Dull and withering. 28. Sun shone: clear and warmish. 29. Soft air: wet all day. 30. Sun shone: warm and growing. 31. Sun shone: mild with showers.